

LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

#34
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**Letters
Letters
& More
Letters**

TV Video Review
**Christine
Jorgensen
Story**

Photo Feature
Drag Strip 66

Flash Back
*Wearing The
Pants At
Finocchio's*

NOW—More pages!

How-To Info
**Hands & Nails
Electrolysis**

Special Interview!
**Devon Cass &
Double
Take**
*celebrity
make-over
magic!*



Editorial

Notes From A Broad

I've spent a lot of time visiting another country lately. More and more I've been taking extended vacations into the Land of Femininity. In other words, I've been dressing up a lot—cross-living for three to eight days at a time. My publisher is a little concerned by this behavior. She keeps asking me if I've picked a middle name yet. (For some reason, those contemplating gender reassignment surgery often have three names.)

The answer is no. Well, you can call me Angela Marie if you want, but that's not my *official* femme name. It's just that—and I think you'll agree—I enjoy being a girl. Especially at this time of life. When I was young I was too busy hiding my feminine leanings, so I never had the chance to be a sexy young chick. And, being called "ma'am" isn't that bad. You're still attractive enough to get compliments but you're not going to get too much attention from red-blooded young men who might be upset if they found out your charms were artificial enhancements. Now, I've had time (no figures will be given) to develop my femme side, and I have the time to devote to long femme phases. I've learned the art of female impersonation, and gotten to the point where, most of the time, I seem to be accepted as a woman when dressed like one and acting like one. Part of that comes from not worrying about being accepted as a woman. Pretty Zen, huh?

Let me illustrate with a story. I recently had to deliver a grant application for Renaissance (the organization I work for as Executive Director when I'm not editing my manicure to the bone for *LadyLike*) to the twenty fourth floor of a downtown office building. It happened that the deadline for the grant application coincided with the beginning of a transit strike. To add more drama to the mix, the transit authority's office happened to be in the same building as the grant maker's office.

I hustled up to the building in my brisk little business outfit to find the lobby filled with security guards (each one over 6'2", they made me feel petite) and a sign on the door saying the building was closed. What to do? That which must be done. I went in and asked them what was up. An officer escorted me to the lobby desk where I was given a memo that told me the deadline was extended and the application could be mailed in. Oh boy! A wait in line at the post office.

I don't know what those guards thought and I don't care. They treated me as they would any other woman, or man for that matter, and *that's* what counts. If I had stopped to worry about what they thought I would have gone away, giving in to the paranoia that many of us (me included, it's ingrained from years of hiding and ya gotta

fight it) feel about people knowing our "true nature." Well, that might have resulted in the application not being in on time. Not a good thing.

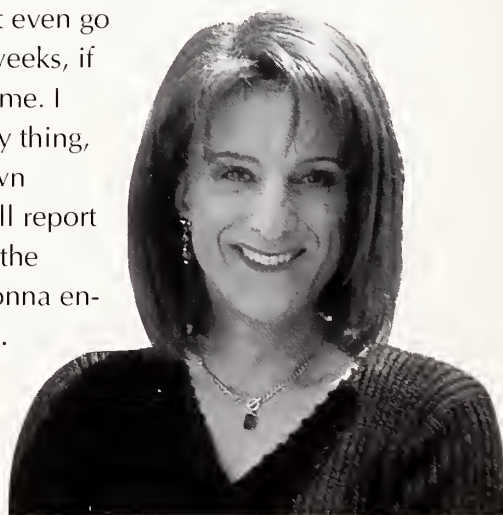
What is our "true nature?" That depends on who you are. In my case, I feel my true nature is both masculine and feminine. I am comfortable operating in either space and enjoy aspects of both genders. Some crossdressers feel that they are disguising themselves as women. As long as they feel that way... they are.

There's nothing wrong with going out in "disguise." In fact, when I felt that way (just a few short years ago) it gave me a "secret mission" feeling as I ventured into the world. But remember, when you have a secret identity you have to start building Bat Caves and Fortresses of Solitude to protect your secret. Most super heroes, if examined by a qualified therapist, would be certified more than a little wacky.

So, extended periods of time in the Land of Femininity can build your confidence. Mingling with regular mortals at the supermarket, the drug store or the auto parts place is good for you. Being called "miss" or even "ma'am" is an ego booster, even if you're not sure that they are just being nice by recognizing your attempt at womanliness. You also get to practice feminine body language and interaction. They say practice makes perfect and there's no better practice than doing it everyday. You also learn how committed you are to getting your extended "visa," or even applying for residency in the Land of Femininity. You can only learn that at home, every day, in the real world, not five or ten days at a tg-community event in a land far away.

I've found I don't want to be a full time citizen of the Land of Femininity. Around the fifth or sixth day I get the urge to pop off those nails and put my hair back on its stand. With motivation, i.e. someplace to go, and friends to be with while *en femme*, I go ahead and drag up for the seventh and eighth days.

Someday I might even go for a couple of weeks, if the spirit moves me. I guess that's a guy thing, can I beat my own record? If I do, I'll report about it here. In the meantime I'm gonna enjoy being a girl... and a guy, whichever one fits my needs at the moment.



LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

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Devon Cass as Cher
photo courtesy of Devon Cass

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Cher & Liza



DOUBLE TAKE

THE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY OF DEVON CASS



Angela & JoAnn: Before

New York City, May 25th, the hottest, most humid day of the year up to that point. We cruised through the sun drenched streets of the city in a big, black car. We wore cheap sunglasses and sexy clothes. We were on a mission. A glamour mission. A glitter mission. A celebrity impersonation mission. How did we end up in a steamy Manhattan that fateful afternoon? Loosen your corsets and take off your stilettos, dolls. It's quite a tale to tell.

JoAnn had emailed me a few weeks before about a book called *Double Take*, by a Cher impersonator/makeup artist named Devon Cass, and a writer named John Fillimon. The book is a step-by-step how-to about celebrity impersonation. JoAnn was impressed by the quality of the transformations and the fact that of the three Marilyn Monroe impersonations presented, the best Marilyn was a guy. Jo suggested we contact the publisher and see if we could do an article on Devon for *LadyLike*. (Makeup is what we're interested in, not the writing part. Sorry, John.)

I contacted the publisher's publicity department. We entered sensitive negotiations. Communiques went back and forth. In other words, Devon and the publicist looked over the *LadyLike* web page, liked what they saw, and said Okay. So, we set up an interview and makeover session. The results of that day's activity are on these pages for your edification and entertainment.

After our transformations we and our entourage (my friend Melodee, a female Cher impersonator who came along to take snapshots and get makeup hints) went to the trendy West Village watering hole, LIPS, for cocktails and dinner. Without the Cher hair (Devon made me give it back) I was told my eyebrows were scary. It was kind of scary since Devon had moved them up about a half an inch. On the way from the car to the bar we got caught in a drenching shower. Fortunately a pedestrian going my way let me share his umbrella... otherwise my brows would have melted and ran down my face. Now that would have been scary! — Angela

LL: How did publishing a book change your life?

DC: People now recognize your talent without you having to say anything. It's now your calling card. You become an instant celebrity; everyone knows who you are.

LL: How long did it take to get the book published?

DC: Two years but I'd been working on it for seven years from the time I did the first proposal.

continued next page



Angela (l.), Devon (c.), JoAnn (r.) ►



LL: Did you have a hard time selling the book?

DC: No, once we got the right proposal, the second publisher snapped it up. I think the reason that my book sold was because it wasn't just female-impersonators. I consider myself an "illusionist." I would have done Michael Jackson if I could have. Also, I've seen sooo many bad female impersonators on talk shows. That was one of my real motivations.

With all the publicity I've gotten, I think if I had done all men doing women, no matter how good it was, I don't think [the publisher] would have approached it the way they did.

LL: Yes, it makes the book about celebrity impersonations instead of about drag queens. So, do you consider yourself a photographer, a makeup artist or what?

DC: A photographer, makeup artist, and Cher impersonator in that order.

LL: The one thing I really, really liked about your book was the white-guy as RuPaul! (JoAnn speaking)

DC: Really? Great, because you're going to wearing some of his clothes today.

LL: How long did it take you to develop Cher?

DC: About six years but I'm still tweaking. The last show that I did, as far as the makeup, I did something a little different and it really worked. I brought the eyes down a little bit more.

LL: Where did you first do Cher and what was your best experience doing Cher?

DC: I first did Cher at the Cafe Society here in New York. My best experience was doing Cher at the Apollo theater. I'd just started doing her.

LL: Did you start out to do Cher?

DC: Yes, always. It came about when I would go to shows with my friend Mark Payne and photograph him do Liza Minelli. He'd say, "Well, who do you think you could do, Devon?" and I would always say, "Cher." It's really ironic, too, because when I was a little kid I always thought that I looked like her and then I never really thought about it again for about 10 years ago. And then when I started dating, people would say I looked like her. I didn't see her. I started playing with it and my first attempt was horrible.

Then I photographed an older woman who wanted to do Cher and she had a really good wig. I put the wig on and and I looked like Cher without any makeup. It was like, "Oh My God!" That's when I knew I could be really good.

I worked on it for like two years and went out on

Halloween and people were like "Cher! Cher!" and I thought, "Cool. This works."

Then I started perfecting the performance. That was a fun process. And I started doing lots of shows and pageants, like Miss Fire Island. One day I asked myself why was I doing this for \$100 shows? I thought, "What can I do as a photographer and artist that will over-shine other photographers to get your name out there. So I sat on the beach and the idea of the book came to me.

LL: Have you been pleased with the response?

DC: Oh yes, we've got an article coming out in *marie claire* this summer.

LL: We hit the stands in July, too, so summer is going to be a great time for you. What was the first celebrity impersonation you did on someone else?

DC: It was Mark/Liza. I started helping him. He'd already been doing Barbra, Liza, Judy, and Diana. So I kinda helped him refine his makeup.

LL: He was doing Diana Ross?

DC: Yes, but he only does Liza anymore. He did RuPaul, but only for the book.

LL: Did you start with the photography first?

DC: No, I did makeup and photography together. When my little sister was four years old, I dressed her up and took pictures and that's how it started. This is my original portfolio (shows us pictures of his little sister). You know how it takes so long to get your family pictures developed? Well, my mother picked up the photos like 6 months later and said, "Who took these pictures?" I didn't know if she was angry, but she loved them.

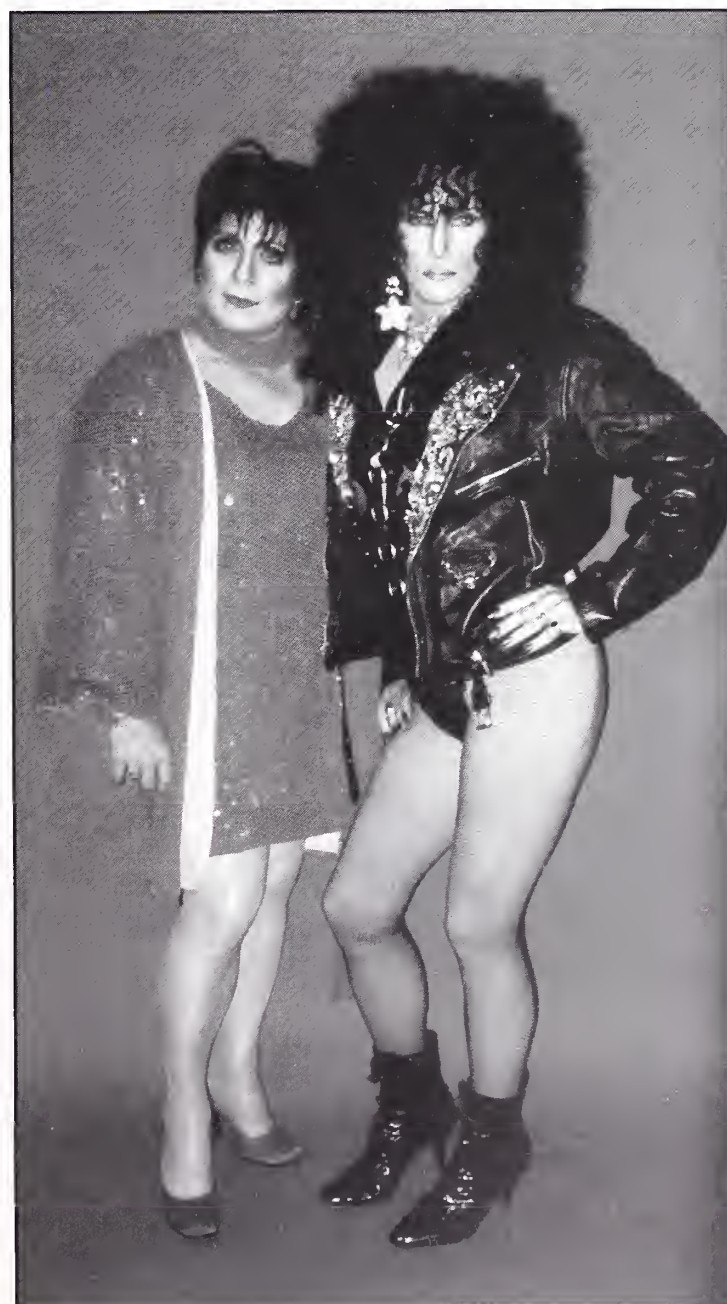
LL: Where do you go from here? You're not going to do Cher impersonations for the rest of your life are you?

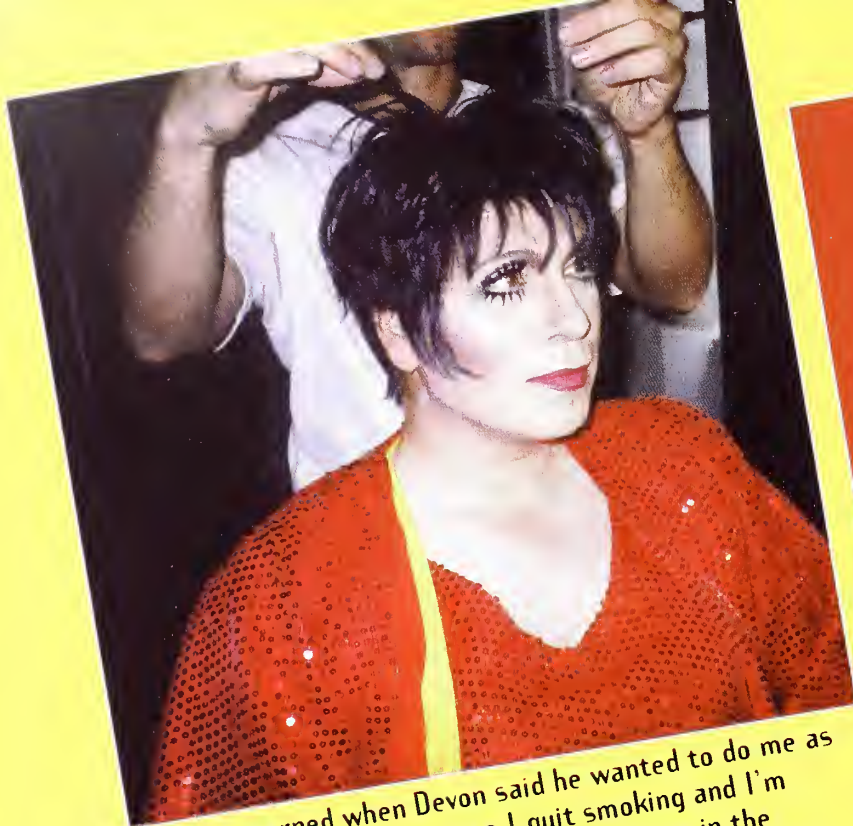
DC: I have another book that I'm working on, but I can't talk about it. We're working on a website, too. I'd like to do some seminars and workshops.

LL: Would you like to be a fashion makeup artist?

DC: I don't want to be just a makeup artist. I mean, I'll do it if they pay me \$1200 an hour, but it's not what I really want. Actually, makeup artists don't get enough credit. A lot of times, you really make the picture and the photographer will treat you like shit. Since I've been doing photography for so many years, I just don't think I could be just a makeup artist.

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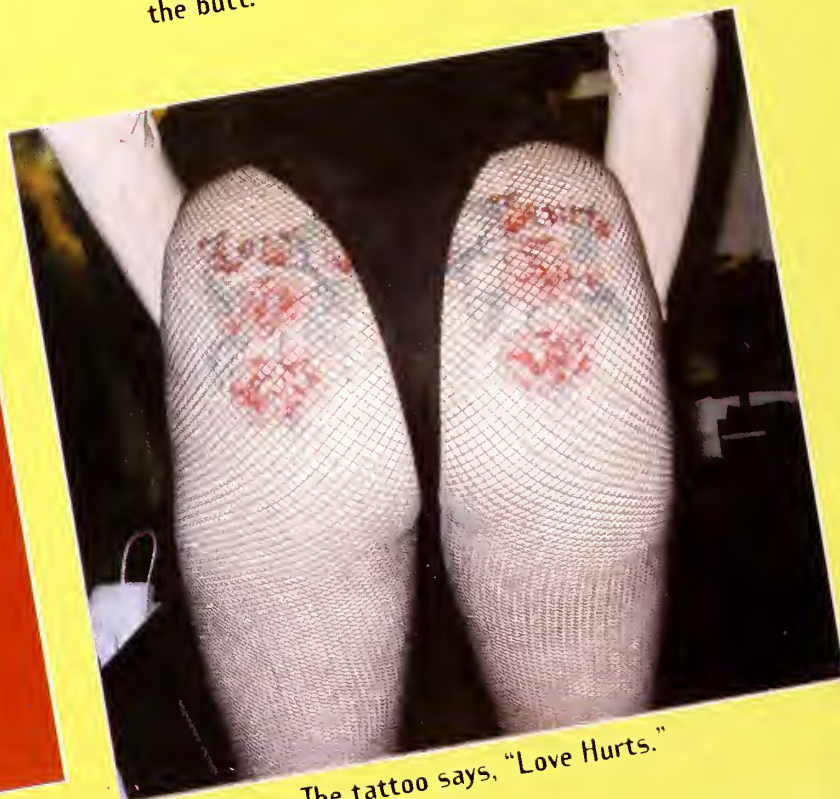
I was concerned when Devon said he wanted to do me as Liza. I've put on weight since I quit smoking and I'm thinking "OMIGAWD, a fat Liza!" Then, I was in the supermarket and all the tabloids have pictures of Liza who has ballooned up to 200 pounds. She weighs more than I do! So, I look exactly like her now.



Devon let Angela wear the complete Cher costume which includes a "nude" bodysuit complete with tattoo across the butt.



That ain't cellulite; it's lumpy hip pads



The tattoo says, "Love Hurts."

LL: Have you ever done drag, just for the sake of it, not trying to impersonate anyone but just be a woman?

DC: Oh, yeah, I love it. It's funny, that's where the whole thing about star quality comes through. The thing about my book is that you can take any of the characters, like the Joan Collins, and follow that for your own makeup, not be Joan Collins, just be yourself. Be your own celebrity. I got as much attention just being myself in drag as doing Cher.

LL: Rumor has it you were in "Too Wong Foo..."

DC: Yes. It was a horror! I was there for two days for 13-14 hours a day. I put that on my resume. The only thing that was fun about it—it was very colorful. All those queens.

LL: Are you visible in the film?

DC: See if you can find me in the beginning of the film.



Devon Shares Some Helpful Hints

LL: How do you mask eyebrows?

DC: I have a stronger spirit gum that totally masks them out. It's Mastix from Kryolan. I've got it down now so that you have to be like inches away to see it. I don't use the stick glue trick anymore. The stick glue will loosen with sweat and come down into your eyes. Ugh. Follow the directions in the book but use the Mastix.

LL: What foundation are you using?

DC: It's M•A•C. I really love M•A•C, the studio version foundation. It's the best base. I used to use Max Factor Pan Stick. That's what I put in the book, but I use M•A•C now. The lipstick I use is L'Oreal Color Endure.

LL: What's the best recommendation you can make?

DC: Get good brushes and learn to blend. It's the blending that makes it look natural. Study your own face and wear what's best for you.

LL



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Letters



Dancing At Clubs

Thank you for your note concerning my subscription. Many times I forget such important issues and focus on other little things like WHEN CAN I DRESS AGAIN???

Since I have actively started dressing again after somewhat of a hiatus, I have had the opportunity to shoot a few photos. (What an understatement from any TV!)



Enclosed are some of my better shots, please publish as you see fit. A quick bio: 49 years currently, been dressing since I can't remember, was voted Miss ETV in 1985, and have only gotten better since. I now go out alone or with my wife about 3 to 6 times per month, have two or three local hangouts where I am fully accepted. The Pacific Northwest is not quite as open as San Francisco, but what is? As I have gotten older I spend less time in the mall parking lots trying to screw up my courage than I did in the past. I now park, check my make-up, make sure my keys are in my purse (one really bad experience locking my keys in the vehicle in Denver), get out and stroll. I have facilitated a number of wig styling classes for a local beauty supply house (as if I needed any more of an excuse to dress). I can regularly be seen at local lounges dancing to some great bands, sometimes with unsuspecting men.

Andi

Loved Andrea Daniels Profile

As a female "wannabe" and devout reader of *LadyLike*, I wish to compliment you and Angela on the quality magazine you publish. The information you share and the advice you provide is very helpful to novice readers like me. I especially enjoy the *LadyLike* Profiles each issue. These profiles provide a little glimpse into the private and personal lives of some of the most gorgeous women and beautiful people that share my love of femininity. Your recent feature on Anndrea Daniels was one of your best.

I wish to compliment you, JoAnn, on your own lovely photos. Thanks for blessing us with one or two photos each issue. You are one of the most beautiful females I have ever seen, and that includes all genetic girls as well! My limited vocabulary will not allow me to do justice to your exquisite beauty. Alluring, beautiful, curvaceous, desirable, elegant, glamorous, gorgeous, innocent, luscious, mesmerizing, pretty, radiant, sexy, tantalizing and voluptuous are just a few of the words that come to mind whenever I gaze at your photos. Your eyes are extremely captivating and your adorable smile is contagious. JoAnn, you are the woman the rest of us admire and envy.

Not to diminish the prestige of *LadyLike* magazine, but with your feminine beauty you should be gracing the covers of *Allure*, *Bazaar*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle*, *Marie Claire*, and *Vogue*. Have you ever considered publishing a magazine devoted entirely to you? Kim Christy once released a magazine devoted entirely to her photos. I love it and it has remained one of my most cherished possessions throughout the years. Speaking on behalf of all your loyal readers and devoted admirers, we would adore seeing more of you and learning more about your precious life.

JoAnn, do you have any advice for a woman like me who wishes to have her ears pierced, yet who is unable to wear earrings all the time due to her occupation or family circumstances. I'm concerned that the holes in my earlobes would quickly close if I do not wear earrings constantly for the first few months. How long must wear earrings before the piercing would be permanent? I also need to be concerned about having the holes visible when not dressed and being able to cope with the likely questions and comments. Are your ears pierced, JoAnn? Any advice you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Let me thank you for taking your valuable time to read my letter. Even though we have never met, I already consider you a dear and precious friend. Thank you again for your fabulous magazine and for being a woman our community can be extremely proud of. I pray this letter finds you healthy, happy and in love with life!

Affectionately, Barbara Sue Cotter

Gosh Barbara Sue, Angela here, you sure know how to kiss up to a publisher. That weak vocabulary certainly stands you in good stead. I'm glad you at least mentioned my name, but it was a brief mention. Guess I need to get more photos of me in this mag. As far as the pierced ears go, Jo's are pierced and since she's the publisher of the best magazine in the TG community she gets to wear her

earrings all the time, girl or boy. I am happy with my clips, thank you. If you want to pierce your lobes it is possible to camouflage the holes. Take a couple of those plastic things that they use to put on clothes. (Another excuse to shop.) Cut two pieces and slightly flatten one end of each piece with a heated knife blade. Don't get them too big. Sterilize them with alcohol and stick them through your ear holes. Put regular earring backs onto the plastic pieces, dab a drop of makeup the same shade as your earlobe skin on the slightly flattened ends and you're set. Oh, if Jo ever does decide to do magazine all about her I'm afraid I'll have to stop her, somehow.

More "Out" This Past Year

Once again I thank you and JoAnn for a job well done. Your efforts continue to produce what I consider the leading publication for our community. Also, I would like to update my photos for you. The ones you have of me are nearly three years old. I am submitting some more recent ones that hopefully reflect an improvement in my appearance. I appreciate your consideration in perhaps using them in future editions. And thanks for the usage of the original ones in preceding issues too.

Things have changed positively for me in the last year and a half. I've reached a level of participation in "out" activities in our community that I never would have



believed possible. These strides due in no small part to *LadyLike* & TG Forum. The interactivity between readers and users respectively helps tremendously to allay the fears and secrecy which has surrounded us as isolated individuals for so long. I know that you receive much correspondence echoing what I have just stated. But just

continued on page 13

LadyLike



The most informative, entertaining, and sophisticated publication to come along in years dealing exclusively with the sincere crossdresser.

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After



Before



After



Letters...

in case you miss the "bottom line" sometimes because you are so busy doing what you do. THANK YOU! Your efforts are fruitful in more ways than you know sometimes. I know the pleasure of receiving letters and email from persons that I have perhaps been able to help in some small way. And I also know the joy of receiving help from others, too. In your case you may never know just how many receive much needed words of explanation and inspiration because most of them may not write or call to tell you. And that's OK. They get the help, that's what's really important.

Briefly on another topic, issue #33's editorial on "tronspotting" was right on target. I'm 6'4". Fortunately I'm slim and have a decent figure. I was always concerned about the height. But over the last few years I've stopped worrying about being "read". And since there are more of us out there, you're exactly right, we're getting read more. So what. I see some really pretty, tall ladies every day. And I've started kind of liking being striking in that regard. I get compliments on it occasionally. You just have to work with what you've got.

Thanks again, Donno

P.S. Please tell JoAnn that I enjoyed meeting her in person at Southern Comfort last Fall, even though it was a brief encounter. She's a really nice lady.

Surprised About Other Magazines

I have now managed to get a subscription to your magazine, by means of having it sent to a friend's house. (It is so much better than going to the not-so-local adult bookstore.)

I wrote your magazine once before, after reading your first issue. You should know that I have never written to a magazine before, let alone twice. I was, and remain, very impressed with the quality of your publication. It has really struck a chord with me.

I am surprised to read that another magazine out sells yours, especially after seeing the other one. Yikes! It may be the fact that the other magazine takes such efforts to show the plumbing of its models, which may attract readers looking for that. I hope you do not fall into that trap. If you ever expect to see your magazine in the mainstream stores, keep those skirts down.

I am acquainted with a small group of crossdressers in my area. We get together as a group to share time together, offer some helpful wardrobe advice, and just enjoy being dressed up. We all seem to fit the mold of your publication. We like to dress, some of us may get out in public sometimes, (like one of your featured girls said, all the fun spots, like the old night gas station, the ATM, and maybe even going through a drive-through!). Some of us even have some desires to have "relationships" with men. At the same time, we all have relationships with significant others, most of whom are not aware of our

crossdressing, and who would probably not approve. None of us wants to go fulltime. Even though we enjoy being women in the limited circumstances of our crossdressing, we don't want to lose the lives we have made for ourselves. It is just very relaxing to be in the company of other "girls."

Because of the limitations on my own crossdressing, I am really looking forward to the Paradise meeting. I have been out a few times in public, but am less able to do that as my responsibilities (and my children) grow. I can only imagine the devastating effect of, say, a traffic stop while I am dressed. There is a TV show (no pun intended) that has used the traffic stop of one poor girl as a part of several of its "craziest police chases" segments. I am certain they think it is hysterically funny. Having been conspicuously followed through the parking lot of a shopping mall by security once, I know how it can be. I was also once chased by a crowd of drunks who attempted to stop my car. Terrifying.

As a result, I have restricted myself mostly to the little gatherings I spoke of. I try really hard, but practically speaking I am not possible, so I do not get to go dancing, or to dinner, or anything like that. It will be a dream come true for me to be with other people, living for a weekend as a woman, without fear. Without fear; what a concept.

I liked the article about the new Amy. In my first letter to you I offered to do that very type of article, as I travel a lot and am planning to try some of the services that are offered in your magazine. Great minds think alike. I would think the services would like to be in such an article, as it would "demystify" the transformation process. I will send you my stories, and you can use them if you want.

One suggestion, and this may be stupid on my part, but how about doing a feature on one of your readers who is *not* five foot six, a hundred forty pounds, petite and possible? You could take someone who is, oh, five eleven and "a little heavier than one forty," and tell their story. It could be a makeover feature, with step by step hints as to how to deal with the various problems we all face in feminizing our masculine selves. Or just a story on an overage (if there is such a thing) crossdresser and how they balance their "lives." Who is the overage crossdresser? What does she like, where does she shop, and how does she live? What does she do with her plumbing? That sort of thing. Inquiring minds, after all.

I am looking forward to reading future issues of *LadyLike*, and I hope that they continue to be of the high quality reflected in the ones I have seen so far. At the same time, I have been asking (and I told all of my crossdresser friends to ask) for it at bookstores, and asking them to order it for the following month. Given the fact that I have never found even a single book relating to crossdressing at a mainstream bookstore, we have a lot of work to do. I did find copies of the videos *Just Like a Woman* and *Glen or Glendo* at Best Buy, though. Now that they sell magazines, maybe they would carry yours. Try them, and

I will, too. Once I finally got up the nerve to ask for it, (are we all such wimps about this stuff?) the reaction at the bookstore has been surprising. They usually just say, "okay, we'll see if our distributor can get it, and add it to the list." And I thought there would be sirens, or spotlights, or at least an announcement over the store public address system, "hey, this guy wants a magazine about crossdressing." Maybe not so far to go after all.

Sorry about the length of this letter. Keep up the good work, JoAnn, and see you in the Poconos.

Mondy

What other magazine? I didn't think there was another magazine for crossdressers. Thanks for your praise, and never fear, LadyLike will never lift its skirt for sales. A little decolletage, perhaps. And by the way, we are in mainstream stores now. Check your local Tower Books and Borders.

As for those idiots in the Scariest Police Chases show (and I'm not talking about the cops) if they had stopped in the first place they wouldn't have ended up on the television show. I've been pulled over a few times in my crossdressing career, and each time I've been treated with the same professionalism that I've gotten when in the same situation while being a guy. As long as you don't try to get out of the ticket by flirting with the cop, and you give them your license and registration, they have no reason to chase you at high speed, throw you to the ground and pummel you with night sticks. Now, carloads of drunks are a different story. It's best to drive directly to the police station in a case like that.

A profile on a girl who's 5' 11" and over 140? Guess we'll have to feature me sometime. Stay tuned, we've got some more substantial girls coming up in future issues. Thanks for promoting LL to your local stores, and thanks for realizing there is no such thing as the Gender Police. Stores aren't interested in reporting your gender variance to nonexistent authorities, they want to serve your needs so they can get your cash.

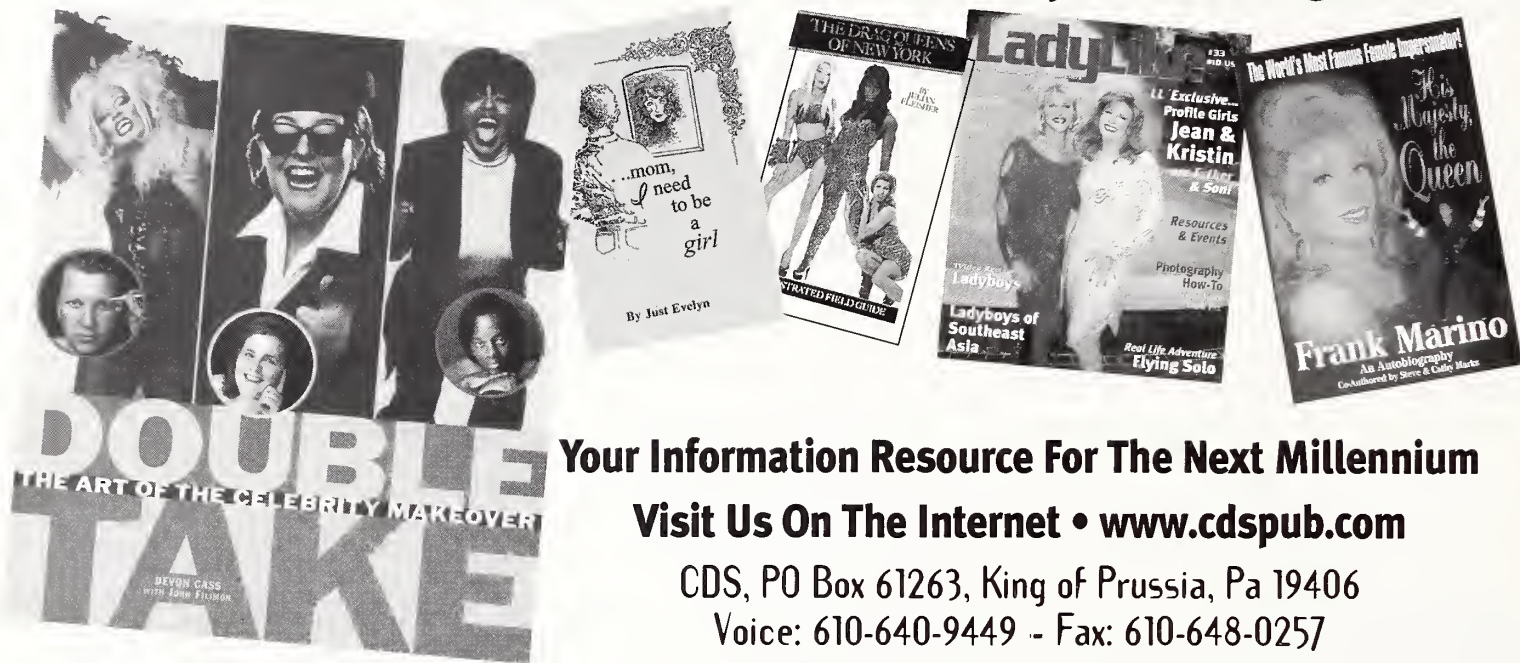
A Big Beautiful Woman?

Enclosed is an order form for LL#32 and LL#30. I hope you have the two issues still in stock. I really appreciate your magazine since I have been an admirer of these ladies since I was a teenager. I used to dress myself years and years ago, when a teenager, but when a boy goes from 5'7" to 6'2" in the course of two summers, it becomes more and more difficult to wear the clothes you dream about wearing. I still think about what it would be like to be 5'10" and slim enough to dress in those clothes, especially when I look through issues of your great magazine. I suppose my biggest hope is that someone reading this will finally know how I feel. I admire the "women" who appear quarterly in your publication and have had opportunity to actually have relationships with

continued on page 15

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Letters...

two. I enjoy reading your mogozine, the experiences and tips, which I find interesting. I think your new editor Angelo has done some great things and I continue to admire JoAnn for having the courage to do the work.

I keep in contact with any and all CDs/TVs/TSs through my account at America Online <BigSlim09@aol.com>. I hope that anyone that wants to contact an admirer of transgendered will do so.

Chris

Chris—I know a few girls well over six two. No excuses, get down to Lane Bryant and get yourself into a dress. Let the guys buy you the drinks for a change.

Wants... No, Needs Breasts

I just recently received the first issue of *LadyLike* from my subscription. I have been researching transsexualism from just about every perspective for the past eight years and have seen a great deal of literature, to say the least. With so much reading and reviewing different mogazines, and newsletters, I can honestly say that yours is absolutely the best.

In issue #28 you asked that readers write you and tell you what else we would like to see in *LadyLike*. Although I believe that LL is very close to perfect, for the transgendered and non-transgendered alike, I do have one suggestion that you could consider.



But first, I have a request. I wish to have my photo grace the pages of your mogozine. It would be an honor to open an issue of the finest mogozine in the world and see my own face. I have placed two wallet size photos in with this letter in hope of having you place them in color in your Mirror-Mirror section. I'm sorry if it is hard to use the wallet size photos, but I am currently in prison and can only get certain items. I can only work with what is allowed to me. Thank you.

Now, my suggestion is probably not an easy one to approach. As a prison inmate in the state of New York, I have heard of all the problems my fellow transsexuals have had in obtaining medical treatment. For the past

eight years I have been researching this issue extensively in the hopes of soon finding evidence, case law, literature, and other types of proof needed to fight the Department of Corrections for medical treatment. I am very close to finishing my case, but have one detail that seriously needs to be covered—breast implants.

As it stands right now, breast implants are cosmetic and there is no medical necessity to have them. I need to prove there can be. In certain circumstances in our society, any woman—or man for that matter—can walk into the office of a doctor who performs breast implant surgery, and walk out hours later with a little less money and a larger bust. There are no guidelines one must adhere to, nor are there standards one must pass before being approved for breast implants. However, a prisoner must. For an inmate, the *only* treatments given are for treatments deemed medically necessary.

Now, my theory is that if a person was denied breast implants, and there was no other way to gain breast growth, that person *could* suffer depression to the extent that it would give rise to serious medical disorder. (Depression is recognized as a serious medical disorder in the DSM-IV.) Take my case, for example. Hormones: Tissue response in my body is normal but according to genetics, every female in my family has A cups or smaller, thus I will not get [significant] breast size from use of hormonal therapy. So, the only avenue for me to obtain any breast size is by breast implants. (You might notice that the photos show me with breasts. Needless to say they are falsies. I've been getting away with it for the past year and a half, but that is subject to change at any time. This is, after all, prison.)

Anyway, being incarcerated, I cannot easily write to medical experts across the world, trying to find one that agrees with my theory and/or can possibly vouch for me in a lawsuit, and possibly a civil trial for medical treatment. And after eight years of research, I have found virtually nothing that helps me.

My request: That you print an editorial or some type of article in your mogozine that addresses the issue and includes a request that any experts or lay persons that might be of assistance in this problem.

Mork "Jessica" Brooks

90A6426 Clinton C.F.

PO Box 2001

Donnemoro, NY 12929

Jessica—Thank you for bringing the plight of the TG prisoner to our attention. To answer your request we have published your letter. Unfortunately, the TG community is having a hard enough time taking care of the discrimination and misunderstanding on the outside to spend too much time thinking about their imprisoned sisters. As things get better for us all, the lot of the imprisoned TG will improve as well. Organizations in the community such as IFGE and Renaissance would do well to consider initiating

prison outreach to reach not only the prisoners, but to educate the staffs on the nature of transgender issues. As long as a prisoner's need to wear makeup, or have breasts, is interpreted as rebellion or just plain causing trouble for the guards there won't be any progress made by complaints from the inside. Organizations could approach funding sources that put up money for prison related issues and propose programs of education for prison staffs.

Texas Debs & A Correction

I was pleasantly surprised to see my "Not a Bitch" letter appear in LL#33. While you have a reputation for publishing controversial letters, mine appears to have been one of the most controversial, at least from your staff's point of view. However, to truly understand the Type A personality one has to have lived around New York City. Try to imagine a cross between Ed Koch and Bella Abzug on crystal and you have some idea of the real Type A. So next time you're having a bad hair day, or getting down on your staff, let them go look on the bright side, it could be worse.



I have a request of you. One of my girlfriends appeared in a photo on page 9 of #33 between Jeon and Kristin. As a true Texas Deb, her first thought was if you spelled her name correctly. She was crushed when I had to say her name didn't appear. To help in this girl's recovery could you note in a future issue her name is Jennifer René. (Please try to include the accent if possible. Francophilo is a critical component of Deb-hood.)

Tongue in cheek bitchiness is one of the three other rules of Texas Deb-hood. Anyone who would like the rest of *Cindy's Rules For Texas Debs*, or would like to add rules, send all email to <seolove@flash.net>.

Love, Cindy Loveless

P.S.: Cute email names are derigeur for Texas debs.

Gally Cindy, why not send us the Texas Deb's Bill of Rights? That oughta slow up your letter writing for a couple of issues. We got your pal's name, and accent, in your letter so tell her cher chez la femme, or something

continued on page 17

Lady Kayla



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Mz. Barbara Satin

Letters...

else French. Nice pic, you look like our friend Dina Amberle. Not too shabby.

Identifies With Other Self

Thank you so much for publishing my photo in our last issue. I honestly feel your magazine is the very best, classiest, transgender magazine yet. I hope in the future that you will have makeup transformation features, as well as tips on creating a realistic female body shape.

I really love my other identity as Ellen. It puts me in



touch with some very powerful creative, artistic forces that most men never experience. I am a woman in every sense of the word when I am Ellen; attending the opera, shopping, going to an aerobics class, fashion show or the theater. I have many genuine female friends who assist me with shopping, mokeup and other feminine delights. I know that one day I will meet the woman who can love and accept the masculine and feminine parts of me.

I hope one day I can be on your cover or a feature girl in your magazine!

Love, Ellen McKinnan

Ellen—Looking at your photos I don't see any need for you to be reading articles on how to make your figure look more feminine. Particularly in that Bunny suit. A few professional shots of you in the Bunny outfit and we could be talking cover profile. Visit a photographer. We'll talk. At the moment, being a quarterly magazine, we are backed up on cover girls. But, gazing into my crystal ball (is that what Cindy was talking about in her letter?) I see a cover in your future.

Just one note. All the activities you mention are indeed feminine ones, but be careful of these stereotypes. I have changed a headlight, fixed on old rodia using an electric screwdriver, and washed the car, all while enjoying being Angelo. So, don't stop at the theater and the fashion shows, get an electric screwdriver and think big!

Issue #33 Was Great!

The other day I bought *LadyLike* #33. There was only one copy available, and as I don't want to miss a single issue, I didn't hesitate to buy it.

As soon as I had the opportunity I browsed through it from cover to cover, and then read the Profile on Jean Rich and Kristin Rivers. My initial reaction was, *wow*. I had a feeling that could be described as a mixture of wonder and awe. It made quite an impression, for some reason. I had memories of sensations that I experienced when, for example, I encountered crossdressers in person for the first time; when I discovered *LadyLike*; and when I read *Secand Serve* by Renée Richards. Reading the Profile again, I also felt a sense of admiration and appreciation.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I hope to someday see the video, *All Dressed Up and Nowhere To Go*, which features JoAnn. Finding out that Jean Rich is also featured is one more reason to look forward to it.

Thanks for the article on photography. The photo in the upper left hand corner on page 28, with the lighting effect, is definitely captivating. And speaking of captivating, the photo of the *Ladyboys of Southeast Asia* are intriguing examples of the possibilities of femininity. In fact, I remember reading an article about a transvestite volleyball team from Thailand known as "The Iron Ladies." It said that transvestites (or Kato in Thai) are generally tolerated and that number of people "in high-ranking positions in the army and government are Kato." (*World Press Review*, November 1996, p. 33.) but, as Laurie Ann says in reviewing the documentary *Ladyboys*, that toleration may be diminishing.

Anyways, thanks for a stimulating issue. The photos of *Mirror-Mirror* are great, and I especially noticed those of Melissa Franks, Rachel Sands, and Tamara Velarde.

Again, thanks for *LadyLike*. It's a ray of sunshine. I look forward to the next issue.

Sincerely yours, Beverly

Enlightened & Encouraged

This is my first letter to you, but not the last. I, like many of your readers of *LadyLike*, love the magazine. I've read other magazines, but this is the best.

LadyLike gives us the ambience, not just of womanhood, but of a Lady. I believe many can become women, but only a few can transform themselves into Ladies. *LadyLike* helps greatly in that transformation. The articles and pictures (*Mirror-Mirror*) enlighten and encourage ladies to come out into the sunshine, even if for a short time at events like *Paradise In The Pacanas*. I attended that outing and I say Thank You for the opportunity to walk in security in the sun.

At the Poconos we had a discussion about having Ladies of Color more often in *LadyLike*. I was glad to hear from you all that was needed is for Ladies of Color to send in their photos. I've done that and you put it in issue #32. Thank you. I will endeavor to take more photos that will

meet the high standards of *LadyLike*. I've also encouraged my friends to do likewise.

In closing, I must say I'm in awe looking at all the lovely Ladies who have made the transformation. Keep up



the good work. This has encouraged me to keep looking for ways to improve myself. Also, thank you to all the Ladies, and to you JoAnn, I'm another Lady at your side.

Delta

No Meat Market

Here is my advance for a subscription to *LadyLike* with a heartfelt, bravo! At last, a transgender magazine that isn't a meat market publication! I found your mag for the first time (issue #32) last weekend and I haven't been able to put it down. Fantastic!

I am a transvestite who only last October came out of the closet. I was astonished to find that there are plenty of people who accept me as a transvestite. I think I get better respect as a girl than as a boy.

A suggestion: Have you done anything in depth on two gender spirituality; not to promote a belief system but to show what people have done to work through, express, or thrive as transgendered in the spiritual? It's obviously a vast and touchy subject, and if anyone can pull it off, I think you can. After all, it is the heart that makes the lady, whether she be biologically female or male.

Love, Lynne Stuart

Understanding & Tolerance

Although not usually a letter writer, I could not ignore Cindy Loveless' comment (Letters #33) regarding cheese-coke and not having what it takes.

Every girl has "what it takes" whether looking like a truck driver or debutante. They have their fantasy, and a chance to share it with others. This 56 year old girl enjoys being a woman, and at times, getting into sexy lingerie because it makes me feel good. I am sure there are a lot of women out there who would concur. We must learn to do what it takes to make us happy, and be tolerant of others. I compliment you and the magazine on not only publishing the debutantes, but the truck drivers. Our life is hard enough. Every little smile helps. Thanks.

Yours truly, Rochel



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Dragstrip 66



The hostess with the mostess, Gina Lotramin, with Jim Bridges trying to cop a feel!



A little princess in white ruffles with her teddy bear (which held a bottle of tequila).

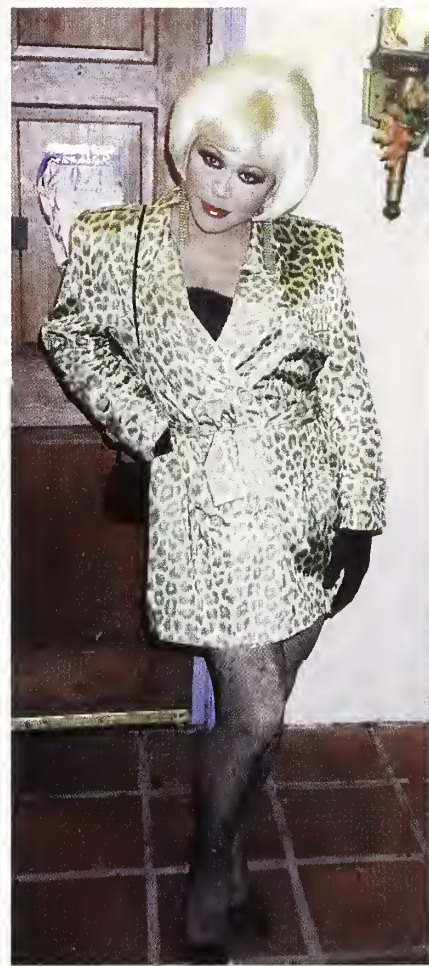
Dragstrip 66, the preeminent, one-night-a-month drag party, Los Angeles extravaganza, had its fifth birthday not long ago and it was quite an event!

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On this night, I grabbed my assistant Gina Lance and her camera and headed for the party! Being the fifth anniversary, the theme was to dress as a five year old; sweet or trashy. But as the evening wore on, it was quite evident that there were less "Shirley Temples" and more "Bad Seeds."

Text by Jim Bridges
Photos by Gina Lance



Definitely not a five year old, but still a babe in leopard.



This lady was a classy showstopper.

Dragstrip 66



This little princess came with her own crown. And a pretty mommy.



"Little" Baby Jane.



◀ The dynamic Dashedle Dammit, a Dragstrip regular.

Blonde bombshell Katie Keegan with her sidekick, the lovely Lydia.



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Dragstrip 66

These three were definitely "Bad Seeds"



These lovelies served as greeters at the door.

Pippy Longstocking and her country cousin.



Jim getting a bear hug from "Mama", one of LA's favorite female impersonators.

Mirror

Michelle Lee
mlee36@aol.com ▶



Denise, W. Pa. FWD2642 ▲



Espy Lopez, SoCal. ▲
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If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at LadyLike Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

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Candie, Lehigh Valley, Pa. ▲

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Leslie5643@aol.com ▲



Valerie ▲
SoCal



Jessica M., PO Box 6120-331 ▲
Newport Bch, CA 92658



◀ Tina Rapport, NYC

Morgan Stevens, NYC ▼



Mirror Win!

Dana Thomas, Fla. ▼



◀ Diane V. Va



Rachel, MO ▲
FWD2847



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Mesquite NV 89024



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FWD312



Rhonda, 6297 Dodge RD ▲
White City, OR 97503

Teeje, P0 Box 9525, Glendale CA 91226 ▼



Mirror Willol

Christain, Colo. ▼



Dawn, Canada ▼



Jill, Kansas ▼





Cindy, Wash. ▲



Felicia, N.Y. ▼



Jackie Balance, PO Box 470042 ▲
Cleveland OH 44147



Janice, 4360 E Main N°180,
Ventura CA 93003 ▲



Diane N. ►
DFN, PO Box 155
Wellington, OH 44090



◀ Telzey Adams
PO Box 195
Berkeley CA 94701



Brenda Laurence, Box 770417 ▲
Orlando, FL 32837



Rachel, U.K. ▼



Brianna, NW Pa. FWD3219 ▼

Take Advantage of the Semi-Annual Sale From *Affordable Fantasies & Illusions*

CHECK OUT THE SPECTACULAR SAVINGS BELOW! We at Affordable Fantasies & Illusions, have created the **FIRST AND ONLY** clothing line in the country especially made to fit crossdressers perfectly (Slimmer hips, Longer arms, Wider shoulders, higher necklines, and longer garment lengths). We used TV models to create our clothing line. You will be pleasantly surprised when you receive your garment because it will fit you well. We are leaving a two inch hem in the sleeves and the hemlines so our tall customers can let the hem down. These are some of our initial pieces, and we will be adding more pieces in time based on our customer requests. Our clothing is offered from chest sizes: 36 - 50 and waist sizes: 26 - 44. We have reduced prices in this ad so **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SAVINGS NOW** because our next sale is not for another few months! Order below from our sale prices and also order our full catalog containing all of our products for only \$3.00. *To order our clothing - specify your chest and waist measurements on the order form.*

Style DR02
Evening Dress with front lace insert and lace sleeves. Surround yourself in luscious lace - sensuous style. Made in a smooth poly knit material.
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Sale Price: Less than 43 chest: \$ 68.95
Over 44 chest: \$ 74.95



BLOUSE
Style BLS01
Elegant Blouse. High neck/long sleeve. Made of flowing gold lame. Very soft and silky.
Color: Gold
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest Only \$ 47.95
Over 44 chest Only \$ 53.45



SKIRT
Style SK01
Cute short skirt. Passable length. Elastic waistband. Poly/cotton knit.
Sale Price: Less than 37 waist Only \$27.50
Over 38 waist Only \$ 29.95

Style DR01
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Color: Black
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest: Only \$64.50
Over 44 chest: Only \$69.95



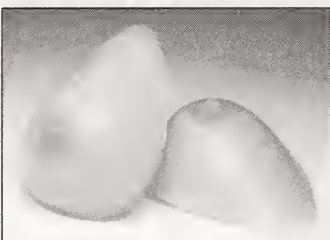
(All handbags in pictures not included)

BLOUSE
Style BLS02
High neck/long sleeve. Made of smooth white rayon with sateen vertical stripe.
Color: White
Sale Price: Less than 43 chest: Only \$47.95
Over 44 chest: Only \$53.45



SKIRT
Style SK02
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Color: Black.
Sale price: Less than 37 waist: Price only: \$29.95
Over 38 waist: Price only: \$32.95

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Our Breastforms are offered in the following sizes:

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Your Hands and Nails

by Susan Peters
Austin, TX

The appearance of my hands and nails, among so many other things, is very important to me and my overall appearance as a lady. I have been an active crossdresser for many years and I am out in public whenever I am dressed as Susan.

When I first began going out my hands and nails were always a problem for me. One reason is because my hands are large. So, what I did in the beginning was to carry a sweater or jacket to cover my hands. This became a little awkward. As I progressed and my overall ability to pass improved, I had to find a solution of what to do with my hands and nails. It was really was a troubling issue for me.

My first efforts were to buy false nails, polish, and remover. I glued those on and then painted my new nails. This became messy at times as I never seemed to have the patience and time. But when I did a good job and was very careful, it worked great. The bigger problem came when it was time to remove the nails. You can find all kinds of removal products which are all acetone based and will cause you to lose some of your natural nail. This is not good and works against you when you are doing it frequently, which was my case.

Most cosmetic supply stores and grocery stores sell press-on nails which are pre-painted, usually a very attractive red. These work very well. You sort the nails and select the ones for your fingers. Next you press each nail tab onto your own nail, peel off the backing, and press a false nail to each one of your nails. I also put a little of the glue which comes with these nails

onto my two larger fingers and thumb. Thus when you press on the nail, it will hold very well. After this, you're ready to put on some nail lacquer for that extra little glow. Let that air dry. It will only take a few moments. Sometimes I will put this on in the car and use my driving time as the drying time. A lady just looks exquisite with a nice set of nails. They are a very important finishing touch. I have had several occasions when someone complimented my nails.

Now what do you do with your hands? Especially if yours are large, like mine, and that skin color on the back is not at all feminine. Here is a little trick which I have used very successfully. Apply one of those non-smudge foundations of the color you want on a makeup sponge and then lightly coat the backside of your hand evenly and thoroughly. I use the same non-smudge makeup which I use as a makeup for my throat and neck area. After that dries, which is about a minute, powder it a with a puff and then use your cosmetic brush to dust it off. The result is that the back of your hand, which in my case always seem to include some men's nicks and scars, are covered. Now the trick to ensure the coverage stays put is to wet a sponge with Witch Hazel, or any astringent, and dab that onto the powder which will set the powder and foundation. It really will keep all of this from running off or getting onto your clothes.

A lady always looks good with jewelry and diamonds are a girl's best friend. So, go to a pawn shop and buy rings for at least two fingers on each hand. Try to buy something large like



fake but good looking diamonds or stones. You can very easily have the rings enlarged. Usually a size 9 or 10 will fit your ring-fingers. If you want buy wedding rings. That will keep the guys away from you.

What can you do about the hair on the your hands? I am married and I regretfully, cannot let my wife of 32 years know about my CDing. So, I have bleached the hair on my fingers and about an inch or so up my wrist. I have shaved the hair off the fingers from the knuckle to nail and bleach the other hair. It works, the hair is bleached out; but when I cannot be Susan then it is still there as it should be. Admittedly, I am fair-skinned and do not have dark hair. Really, a lady does not have a lot of dark hair on her hands. I also wear large, tasteful cuff bracelets on my wrists. This helps to cover the wrist and looks very fashionable. I smoke and when I am in a bar as Susan this really covers up my wrists. Also, you must wear long sleeves in a jacket or a blouse. Our arms are just not like that of a lady. So cover up.

Try these tips for your hands, wrists and nails. You will look very fashionable and pass well if everything else is right and you behave femininely. So go to it and have fun.

Mirror

Jacqueline ▼ Virginia



▲ Jaclyn, NH FWD3392



Linda Blair ▲ Arkansas

Donna, PO Box 210585
Nashville TN 37221 ▼



Claudia, Germany ▼ claudia@transw.central.de



Andrea ▼ NorCal



TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects – crossdressing.

The Christine Jorgensen Story

In May 1989 Christine Jorgensen died of cancer. She was sixty two years old. The passing of the world's most famous transsexual was only briefly mentioned in the media. This was in stark contrast to 1953 when newspaper headlines declared, "Ex-GI Becomes Beautiful Blonde." Christine Jorgensen was instantly catapulted into the limelight. Her privacy was invaded to obtain stories and pictures. Everywhere she went people gathered and it was impossible for her to lead a normal life—which she desperately wanted. For much of her life she was a newsworthy personality. It was only until her last years that she was able to live a quiet, almost anonymous life.

It is surprising, therefore, that her obituary was so brief. Anyone who read her 1967 autobiography, *Christine Jorgensen, A Personal Autobiography*, is impressed by Christine's courage and incredible bravery. She was a remarkable woman who changed the prevailing way society defined sex and gender.

Prior to her sex reassignment surgery all gender disorders were lumped into one general category—sexual perversion. As Pat Califia has written in her thought provoking book, *Sex Changes, The Politics of Transgenderism*, prior to 1953 and Christine Jorgensen, transgendered individuals were seen, "... as ridiculous for engaging in a vain parody of

healthy normal sexuality." Males and females had very clearly defined and stereotyped sexual and gender roles. If one deviated ever so slightly from these standards one ran the risk of being labeled a "sexual deviant."

Jorgensen's quiet, painful quest for her true identity unwittingly became the catalyst for initiating the debate

about contemporary sexuality and its many varied dimensions. One might even say Christine was a major catalyst for increasing society's openness to sexual and gender expression. That acceptance has continued to evolve. When one looks back to 1953, the change has truly been dramatic.



continued next page



Famed sexologist, Dr. Harry Benjamin, wrote the introduction to Christine's autobiography. He explains that science and medicine, hormonal treatments and surgery, can alter one's sexual status. A man could become a woman; a woman could become a man.

Christine Jorgensen, once a man was now a woman as a result of modern medicine. Dr. Benjamin states, "Her success as a woman is no longer in doubt."

Christine then told her story. It is a well written narrative that describes how, from early childhood, she was never at home with her male identity. The story elaborated her painful, but driven, efforts to find answers. Those answers were found and culminated in hormone treatments and sex reassignment surgery in Copenhagen between 1950 and 1952.

One had to be impressed with her strength and motivation. Here was a shy, introverted, depressed, feminine, young man who had only enough money for a one way trip to Copenhagen, and very little to live on once he arrived. Further, he didn't know Danish or Swedish, and had no idea how to find the appropriate medical assistance—let alone be accepted for treatment. Christine explains that she made this very scary decision because "...how could any future life be worse than the past twenty- three years."

Fortunately, she had met a Danish friend, Helen Johnson. Helen was the first person Christine had told of her feelings of being a woman trapped in a man's body. Helen and her husband provided her with a place to live. They also helped her find Dr. Christian Hamburger, who performed the surgery. George took the name Christine, the feminine version of Christian, in honor of Dr. Hamburger, whom she saw as a sort of patron saint for those who suffered confused gender identity.

Her first surgery occurred on September 24, 1951. There were two subsequent operations. Christine had hoped to return to America and "blend in" as an ordinary woman. It was never to be. A friend of the family sold her story to the press and the rest is history. Christine handled the press onslaught with great dignity and poise, even though the stories written about her were frequently insulting, negative, and false. The remaining portion of her autobiography describes her considerable success in show business, and the occasional set back from organizations and individuals who are best described as "transphobic."

In 1969, it was announced that a film based on Christine Jorgensen's autobiography would be made. Although Ed Wood's 1953 *Glen or Glenda* and the 1968 *She Man* had been the first films to seriously explore transgender issues, most of us didn't even know that these films existed. So the *Christine Jorgensen Story* created a great deal of interest and anticipation for most of us.

It was said that when auditions were held to select the cast the studio was filled with professional female impersonators from all over the country. They all wanted a chance to be Christine. It is interesting to note that Christine felt a genetic female should be given the part.

Regardless of the available talent, John Hansen was selected for the role. He was unknown and this was to be his first and only film. The rest of the cast, as well as producer Edward Small and director, Irving Rapper, are equally obscure. The only cast member to achieve any degree of success in acting was Trent Lehman, who played George/Christine as a young boy. Trent was in the cast of the 1970-71 sitcom, *Nanny and The Professor*.

The film generally follows Christine Jorgensen's autobiography reasonably well. The film begins with a young George, about nine years old, admiring a doll in a toy store. Several boys begin taunting and making fun of George. One boy calls him Georgette.

Following this scene is an incident where young George wants to play with his sister's dolls. In a low key manner his mother advises him that he has his own toys to play with, and the doll is his sister's toy. George reacts with a sad, disappointed look.

The tone of the film is set. George feels he is different and he is considered a "sissy." He has few friends. Those he has are girls. Christine's voice over tells us "There were no tomorrows that weren't lonely."

The film does a good job portraying Christine's family as emotionally healthy, warm and loving. This in no dysfunctional family. The pathological family syndrome



John Hopkins acceptance of sex change surgery."

The Christine Jorgensen Story was considered a "bomb" by every critic. I don't think it was quite that bad, but there are major flaws in the film. It failed to convey the depth of despair and hopelessness George felt prior to hormonal treatments and surgery. The change in personality, from an introverted, self conscious young man, to an outgoing, poised, happy woman is truly incredible, but not developed in the film.

The homosexual panic rape scene is overemphasized. It smacks of homophobia. The attempt to introduce a romance between Christine and the Journalist is simply a Hollywood fabrication. The most glaring flaw is the casting. John

Hanson failed to capture the depth of Christine's character. He was wooden and stiff. A more androgynous actor/actress might have been a more believable Christine.

The film did convey the the important idea that being transgendered does not mean that one is mentally ill. Unfortunately, the film doesn't stress this idea sufficiently.

LadyLike readers will enjoy the scene where young George is caught by his mother while "dressed." In her autobiography Christine denies dressing prior to surgery.

The most glaring failure of the film is the missed opportunity to convey the aspiration of all humans that transcends being transgendered. Christine states it most beautifully in the last paragraph of her autobiography: "Has it been worth it? I must admit, at certain moments in my life I might have hesitated to answer. I remember times when I lived in a crucible of troubled phantoms, and faltered in the long painful struggle for identity. But for me there was always a glimmering promise that lay ahead; with the help of God, a promise has been fulfilled. I found the oldest gift of heaven—to be myself."

***The Christine Jorgensen Story* is available from Video Search of Miami, PO Box 16-1917, Miami, FL 33116. This is a very poor quality dub. Watch for a better version which occasionally appears on TNT, the Turner Network cable channel.**

***Christine Jorgensen, A Personal Autobiography* can be obtained from a library or an inter-library loan.**

Drop me a note if you have any comments or thoughts about TVideo Reviews — Laurie Ann



has often been underscored by the psychiatric community as a major determinant of transsexuality. Christine's family reveals that the psychiatric etiology is an exceedingly simplistic explanation. Although George's parents are concerned and somewhat disturbed by their son's feminine behavior, neither parent is rejecting or hostile.

The story moves to George as a young adult working as a photographer. His gay boss attempts to seduce him. Panicked, George considers suicide. The film uses this scene to emphasize that George is not gay. Something else must be making him feel as he does.

With the help of an endocrinologist, George finds out that his hormonal makeup is much the same as that of a woman. There is a clinic in Copenhagen where individuals with sex and gender conflicts are being helped. Sailing to Copenhagen, George is accepted as a patient and has surgery. We are given a very superficial glimpse into the complicated surgical process. George is shown as a male before surgery and then we see him in a hospital bed, beautifully coiffed—a woman. If it were only that simple!

The film ends with Christine arriving at New York International Airport. She is met by a mass of reporters, the largest assemblage of reporters in the history of the airport. The majority greet her with derision. The film goes to a voice-over: "It took thirteen years for the laughter to end. On November 21, 1966 the *New York Times* told of

U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education.
PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 781-899-2212.
<ifge@ifge.org> <www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$24 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter Renaissance News & Views. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org>
<http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization.
<jeftris@aol.com> <http://www.firstmonday.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Alabama

Madison County Gender Center, c/o MCC, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

Arizona

A Rose, PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ 8520-1738

Alpha-Zeta (Tri-Ess), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ 85280-1738
Tau Upsilon, 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ 85710
Evolere Transgendered Foundation, 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ 85719

California

American Transsexual Education Center, 1626 n. Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood, CA 90028

Alpha Chapter, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036
Gender Awareness League, PO Box 46062, Los Angeles, CA 90046

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, CA 90048

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA 90703-3182

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA 90808

Transsexual Support Group The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814

CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose, CA 91021

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA 92713

Nadia Cabezas c/o Jeff Faircloth, 191 Golden Ave, San

Francisco, CA 94102

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517

Omega Chi, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main St. Suite 104, Pomona, CA 91765

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Society for Second Self (Tri-Ess), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Tri Chi Tri-Ess, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Emergence-Support for Christian Transsexuals, 208 W.

Manning, Reedley, CA 93654

FPSG, #634 PO Box 410-990, San Francisco, CA 94141-0990

San Francisco Gender Information (SFGI), PO Box 423602, San Francisco, CA 94142-3602

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885

Society for Initiatives & Services in TG Issues, PO Box 30844, Oakland, CA 94604-0844

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705

Thursday Irregulars c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA 95150-6541

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

3rd Sect, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456

Sigma Sigma Beta, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

Colorado

Delta, PO Box 16208, Denver, CO 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado Inc., 1455 Ammons St. Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Phoneix Project, 1740 South Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora, CO 80017

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clamont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387

GBSING, c/o PO Box 162, Haddam, CT 06438

connecticutView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

District of Columbia

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C. 20091-0724

Delaware

Renaissance Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE

19808

Florida

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL 32247

Phi Epsilon Mu, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL 32790-3261

Tau Lambda, PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3426

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692

Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami, FL 33242

TG Support Group c/o Heidi Lawrence, PO Box 4940, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches c/o Compass, 1700 N. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL 33407

Gamma Chi Beta, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Georgia

Epsilon, PO Box 272, Roswell, GA 30077-0272

AGE, PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI 96812

Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, ID 83707

Illinois

Chi, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Sunday Society, PO Box 478850, Chicago, IL 60647

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657
Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 126, Washington, IL 61517

Outpost TransGender Group, 123 W. Church, Champaign, IL 61825

Transgender Significant Others, 123 West Church Street, Champaign, IL 61825

Indiana

International Gender Support, PO Box 425 PO+Box 425 Carmel, Carmel, IN 46032

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS 67201-3002

Kentucky

Bluegrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, KY 40250

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts

Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035

TG Support Group, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA 01778

Tiffany Club of New England Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483

Trans Info Project (FiM), PO Box 1145, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Maryland

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore c/o Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Tri-State Transgendered Club c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD 21550-1002

The American Boyz (FiM), POB 1118, Elkton, MD 21922-1118

Maine

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Maine Gender Resource & Support c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Minnesota

Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, MN 55117

Gender Education Center, PO Box 1861, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Beta Gamma, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

TransSisters, 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110

Mississippi

Beta Chi, PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286-1253

North Carolina

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC 27282

Circle of Children, Rt 5 Box 564, Zebulon, NC 27597

Tau Gamma, PO Box 25282, Raleigh, NC 27611

Kappa Beta, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, NE 51502

New Jersey

New Jersey Support, PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045

Sigma Nu Rho, 1092 St. Georges Ave. Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065-2664

Chi Delta Mu, PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001

Monmouth Ocean Transgender, PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta), 8200 Montgomery NE #241, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Nevada

Transgender Support Las Vegas Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia Suite 850-256, Reno, NV 89511-8981

New York

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St. Box 45, New York, NY 10014

LIFE, PO Box 1311, Watertown, NY 11976-1311

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 1611 South Road Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-0611

EON Inc., 523 W. Onandaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204

Lambda Chi Lambda, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692

Ohio

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Alpha Omega, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054-0053

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45204

Oklahoma

Sooner Diversity, PO Box 575, Norman, OK 73070

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, 3334 W. Main Ste. 203, Norman, OK 73072

Oregon

Phoenix Rising Foundation, 620 SW 5th Avenue Ste. 710, Portland, OR 97204-1422

It's Time Oregon!, PO Box 86488, Portland, OR 97206

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208

Trans-Port, P.O. Box 66913, Portland, OR 97290

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR 97850

Pennsylvania

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505

Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122

Renaissance Transgender Association, 987 Old Eagle School Rd. Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Renaissance Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Tennessee

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11232, Memphis, TN 38111-0232

Texas

Delta Omega, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924

ReCast Education & Information Network, PO Box 224001, Dallas, TX 75222-4001

Nu Epsilon Tau, PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036

Tau Chi, 8800 Bellaire B2 Ste. 104, Houston, TX 77036

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX 77083

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090

Epsilon Tau, PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.), PO Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77401

Texas T Party, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Alpha Tau, PO Box 2753, Cedar Park, TX 78630

Central Texas Transgender Society, 2900 West Anderson Lane Suite 127, Austin, TX 78757

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, 5350 Llano St., Abilene, TX 79605

Virginia

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike Ste 1820, Annandale, VA 22003

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Vermont

TRANS, PO Box 5687, Burlington, VT 05402

Washington

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI 53214

West Virginia

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724

more listings next page

Canadian Support Groups

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 33002, Edmonton T5P-4V8

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7.

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Manitoba

Prairie Rose Gender Club, PO Box 23 Grp 4 RR1, Dugald, R0E 0K0. Phone: +1 (204) 257-2759.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715, Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to:gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

Transition Support, c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, M4Y 2C9.

Street Outreach Services, SOS, 622 Yonge St., 2nd Fl, Toronto, M4Y 1Z8. Phone: +1 (416) 926-0744 (24 hours).

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July '98

15 - 19, S.P.I.C.E.: Spouse/Partners International Conference for Education in Atlanta, GA. For info call 510-235-7450 Pacific Time; 918-343-1953 Central Time; 215-860-9271 Eastern Time or send email to: cmelp@phoenix.net

August '98

6-9, World Pornography Conference, Universal City, CA, contact Dr. James Elias, Center for Sex Research, California State University, Northridge 18111 Nordoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8318. Phone: 818-677-3844, FAX 818-677-2059.

28 - 30, GENDYS 98 - Gender Dysphoria Conference, Hulme Hall, Manchester University, England. Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Counsellors, Sociologists, networking with the transgendered community itself.

September '98

18 - 20, The Third International Congress on Sex and Gender, Exeter College, Oxford University. Jan Cobb, PFC BM network, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: +44 (0) 1473 421385 Fax: +44 (0) 1473 421386, or email to: Cong.book@pfc.org.uk.

30 - 10/4, Southern Comfort Conference, Holiday Inn Atlanta Central, Atlanta, GA. Call 404-633-6470, or write to SCC, PO Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or email to sccatl@aol.com.

24-27, The Second International Transgender Film & Video Festival, Lux Cinema, Hoxton Square, London Alchemy, 36 Durlston Road, London E5-8RR, England. bev@mistral.co.uk.

October '98

Holiday En Femme, Minneapolis, Minn., CANCELLED. See Dignity Cruise X below.

3, Delaware Pride Festival, g/l/b/t communities, Noon - 6:00 pm, Rodney Square, Wilmington, Delaware. voice: (302)328-1391, or send e-mail to: PrideDel@aol.com.

15 - 17, Lavender Law Conference, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. <LAVLAW98@aol.com>

18 - 25, Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. Contact Alison Laing, P.O. Box 473 Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473 401-624-4317.

24 - The Fourth Annual Transgender/Transexual Health Empowerment Conference, 9 AM to 7 PM, Audre Lorde Project Inc., 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn NY 11217. For more info or input, please contact: Rosalyne Blumenstein Director GIP, Phone: 212 620 7310. Oremailto:rblumenstein@gaycenter.org

November '98

5 - 8, Paradise In The Poconos, fantasy getaway weekend. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call 610-640-9449 or email to: poco@cdspub.com

5 - 8, Fall Harvest 1998, sponsored by City of Lakes Crossgendered Community in Minneapolis, Minn. For info contact, CLCC, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

8 - 13, Dignity Cruise X and Holiday at Sea II. Miami to Key West and the Bahamas. Contact Cruises, Inc.: Barbara Arendt at 800-621-6699 or Mike Sinn at 800-818-7830.

11-15, Joint Meeting: The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Sex Therapists,

Sexuality and the media: Hooray for Hollywood? Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, CA write Joint AASECT/SSSS Meeting, P.O. Box 240, Mount Vernon, IA 52314-0240. Phone: 319-895-6407, FAX: 319-895-6203.

13-15, Full Circle of Women, Center for Gender Sanity, PO Box 451427, Westchester, CA 90045. Phone: 310-670-2222.

merkings@cris.com.

1999 Events

March '99

3-16, Dignity Cruise XI. On the Marco Polo from Sidney, Australia to Cairns. Contact Cruises, Inc.: Barbara Arendt at 800-621-6699 or Mike Sinn at 800-818-7830.

August '99

17-22, Harry Benjamin Intl. Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., London, England. Contact: Bean Robinson, 1300 South 2nd St., Ste. 180, Minneapolis, Mn 55454. Phone: 612-625-1500 (Receptionist), 612-624-8078 (Voice Mail), 612-626-8311 FAX, robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here and online, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at: info@cdspub.com.



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Ms. Lynda of CDtips

23 Years Wearing Pants at Finocchio's

An Interview with B. "Shep" Shepherd

After decades of reading gender community magazines I had a realization. We're talking to ourselves! We interview each other, gossip about each other and report on our leaders, their successes and fights. In this **Flash Back** we're trying to broaden the focus by talking to someone outside of the community, while very much a part of it. For over 20 years Berisford "Shep" Shepherd was a musician at Finocchio's, America's oldest female impersonator showroom.

When we visited him at the home he calls "Pearl's Palace," in honor of his wife, now deceased, he was charming, easy going and delightful. He presented us with copies of two recordings he had performed on, gospel recordings by Brook Benton and Patti Page, which have just come out on CD. But the most endearing part of the morning was Shep's question when he opened the door, "How do you like your eggs?" The sausages were in the warmer and the pancakes on the griddle. Shep was the soul of hospitality and his hospitality had real soul. After breakfast we settled down to hear about his years at Finocchio's.

Ms Bob: When did you start playing at Finocchio's?

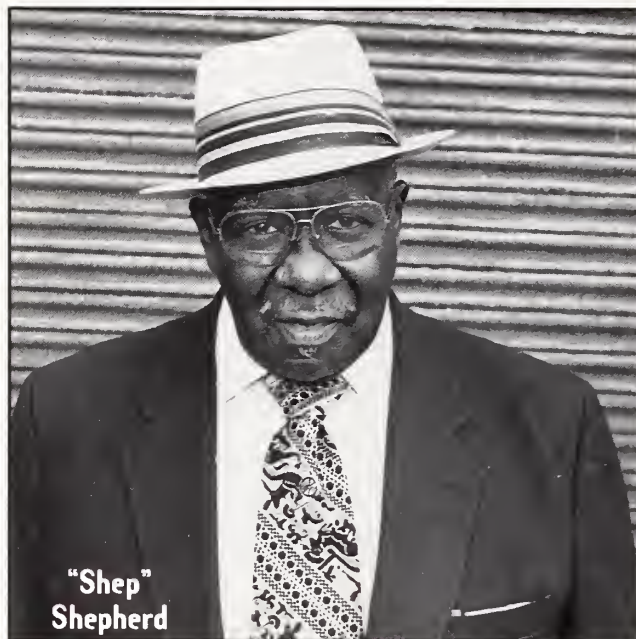
Shep Shepherd: Oh, gosh, I should have made a note of it, but you do the math. Three years ago in 1995 they stopped having live music. Prior to that I had put in 23 years.

MB: How many musicians in the group?

SS: It was a trio; piano, drums and tenor sax. Bill Bullard, the fabulous piano player and leader, wrote those production numbers. He wrote as though it was for Radio City Music Hall with the changes in tempo, key changes and what-not. Mood, modes and all that sort of thing. And all along there was Ed Gorman on tenor saxophone. We were doing five and six days a week.

MB: Was it a (Musician's) Union gig?

SS: Oh, definitely. That's what made my social security and stuff come out very nicely. It was a fully legit affair.



MB: Who was the clientele?

SS: The majority were tourists. Finocchio's was on the tour bus route. They had those Gray Line Busses lined up in front of the place at that time, you know. There were some locals who came on a regular basis, too.

Carol Kleinmaier: Did any crossdressers attend?

SS: Rarely, but I've seen it. I've heard of it happening and there was no problem, because everybody behaved.

MB: Who ran Finocchio's?

SS: Joseph Finocchio was the owner and operator. He was assisted by his wife. It was a family run affair. Yes, it was very nice that way. Even today the Finochios annually invite me to their Christmas party. Private, no big thing, just family. And, now that I'm concentrating on trombone, I take my horn along and play carols for the children.

Eric, Mr. Joe's oldest grandson, is now the manager of the club. But it was Mr. Joe who operated the place then. It was all table seating, a theatrical state of affairs. So, there was no hanging out. It was show time. And when the show was over the house cleared out and in came a new set.

MB: Harvey Lee described the material he did there as *risqué*.

SS: Yea, double meanings. Double meanings.

Ms Bob
&
Carol Kleinmaier



(l. to r.) Don Marr (head waiter), Cleo Fast (choreographer), 2 unidentified waitresses, and Shep Shepherd

This kind of stuff Finocchio's approved of, rather than straight out smut. And it worked out beautifully. The audience was fully entertained and there was stuff there for adult audiences. I mean, folks that wanted to get a little earthy. (laughs)

When I think of the Finocchio experience, the whole thing is exceptional to me. Not just because of what it did for Pearl and I, but being that much a part of it, especially compared to what a lot of other people believed about the Finocchio's scene. Pearl and I would attend annual staff party and have a grand time. They showed us a good time and showed that they really cared about how we treated their establishment and went along with their requirements.

MB: And the performers would bring their wives to the party?

SS: They brought their mates, however it went. However it went, and they were ladies and gentlemen, all the way. A few of them had, you know, mutual mates and they lived a good life. Darn good life, because it reflected in their demeanor. The particular thing I liked about it was nobody infringed on anybody else's lifestyle. You know what I'm saying? Nothing but respect and love.

CK: You started to say that some people had negative assumptions about Finocchio's?

SS: I didn't say negative. I just said various. Some were way out in left field because they didn't know what the Finochios asked for. Such as; "don't ever leave there in drag;" "don't come out on the floor in costume." From 9 until, whatever it was, 12, 12:30, 1 o'clock, they were performers. After that, they were on their own. And there was no bar. There was waitress service. A lot of people thought it was just another gay club, where people go and

pick each other up. But that didn't happen there.

MB: Did the performers have their own musical arrangements?

SS: Most of them, especially people like Laverne Cummings and the real big-time headliners. I got to know and appreciate Laverne as a very fine artist. Laverne, few people know, had a steady day job at one of the big department stores downtown, either Macy's or Emporium. But what I'm saying now, besides being a sales person, and I even heard a buyer; he was also a model, a male model. He had the finest attitude toward life in general. A nice guy and a fabulous performer. If you just heard his voice, and didn't look, you wouldn't have believed it was coming from a man, until at the end of it he would say, "Thank-you." (Shep switches to a very deep voice, then laughs.) Shake them up, you know. And he was a perfectionist, that I know about him musically.

But so many of them were artists, so damn good as far as presentation and everything. There was this one little Filipino boy, Florencio De Los Santos, a beautiful little rascal. He

continued on page 44

Cast from a Gray Line Tours brochure, ca. 1987. Back row: unidentified German twins. Front row (l to r) Tony, Rene DiCarlo, Sophia Patrikis (gg), Master of Ceremonies, Florencio De Los Santos





From a Finocchio's postcard. Back row (l to r) Lori Shannon, Carroll Wallace, Laverne Cummings, male belly dancer, unknown performer. Seated (l to r) Coquis, Rene DiCarlo, Frankie Rodriguez, unknown performer, Florencio De Los Santos.

had the prettiest appearance and sang gorgeously, like a girl. But, so many of the guys were in and out so fast I didn't get to know them.

CK: Why didn't they stay longer?

SS: Mmmm, well, one reason or another. One of the performers reached what he was after and moved to Phoenix and became a landlord. Isn't that marvelous? Some of them went to other shows, like Beach Blanket Babylon. Better offers and all that kind of stuff. There was Lori Shannon who was in an episode of the Archie Bunker show. Made some fame. The joke was that Archie Bunker didn't know and kissed him good-bye or something like that. They had one woman in the show. A real woman.

MB: A real woman? The Jewel Box Revue had a woman who performed as a man.

SS: This was a woman who performed as a woman. Sofia Patrikis. Greek. She sang. Occasionally she was mistress of ceremonies, subbed for Carroll Wallace. Carroll Wallace was the master of ceremonies there for a long time. Lived here in town, out in the Avenues with his wife Ruth. Carroll Wallace was a busy, fine looking guy. Fine looking guy. With an attaché every time he moved around. (laughs) He might have his make-up in there, but it's an attaché, nevertheless.

MB: Were any of the other performers married?

SS: A lot of them were very delicate in their way, but they had wives. I'm speaking of one particular couple, Jean and

Rene. I recall their names because we loved them. Jean was one of the waitresses. And her husband, Rene DiCarlo, presented a Latin repertory. A real professional. He could do three different shows and do three different acts! Terrific dancer, Rene was one of the stars. Outside he was Mr. DiCarlo with his wife Jeannie. They had a lovely home. Pearl and I visited and found out about guacamole and all that good stuff, man. (laughs)

And there were other people. Frankie. What was Frankie's last name? Rodriguez. It's coming back. For 81 I'm doing pretty good, huh. (laughs) Frankie Rodriguez was a fabulous dancer. Lead dancer. You might call him a soubrette. He looked like some movie actress. There's something about him, a grand woman look. Had a lovely home with a fellow in the East Bay. I met a daughter of his from Mexico. I think she was going to Stanford University when I met her. That's what he's dancing for.

MB: To put his daughter through Stanford?

SS: All that kind of stuff. You know what I'm saying. Most people there were working for a purpose. That was the beauty of these artists.

And with a laugh of respect Shep summed up his reflections of over twenty years behind the drum set at Finocchio's. The on-stage performers came and went: Laverne Cummings, Frankie Rodriguez, Lori Shannon, Rene DiCarlo, Carroll Wallace, married heterosexual performers carrying attaché cases and gay performers putting their kids through college. But the union musicians were there for decades. They became almost part of the Finocchio family and Finocchio's was and is a family run business. At Finocchio's a cross section of America saw a cross section of female impersonators. And, for many in the audience, one trip to Finocchio's was all they knew about our gender community.

Ms BOB is always interested in contacting other collectors of gender books, photos, magazines and ephemera to compare collections, trade, buy or sell. Several times a year she distributes a list of items she has available. Please, drop her a line if you'd like to receive this list. Ms. Bob can be reached care of LadyLike at <bdavis@sfsu.edu>.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in Flash Back, please drop us a note and we will try to oblige.



Mirror



▲ Monique Elliott, PO Box 4345,
Tequesta FL 33469



▲ Frank Marino with his new video
"Bold, Blonde & Beautiful"

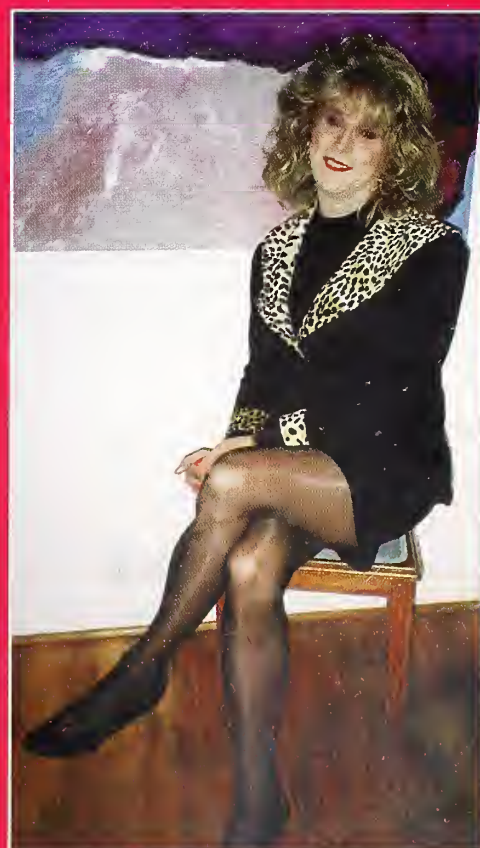


▲ Jennifer,
PO Box 36812, Grosse
Pointe MI 48236



▲ Tammi, Ohio

▼ Susan Peters, Texas



▼ PJ, PO Box 9038, Colorado Springs CO 80932

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Electrolysis & Me

Gina Lance

My name is Gina Lance and I work with Jim Bridges, in Studio City, California. I also co-hostess "TVTV", a cable access television show with my friend Marlayna Lacie. I've been fortunate enough to attend and work at Southern Comfort in Atlanta, Ga., the Be-All in Chicago, Ill., Cal-Unity in Long Beach, Calif., and the Texas T-Party in Dallas last year. All of these conventions were interesting, informative, and fun... but painful. The painful part is the *shaving ritual*.

I have a coarse, heavy beard which I have to shave up to four or five times at different angles in order to get a smooth surface for even makeup application. At conventions, I would go through this ritual twice a day. Towards the end of a week my face was killing me. Finally, I said ENOUGH!

Thumbing through the Yellow Pages, I came across an ad for Electrolysis. Not all that unusual, but this ad said: "Men, Women, Pre/Post TS." I figured I fell into several of those categories. Quicker than you can press on a nail, I made an appointment and met with Electrologist, Carol Gendler. She was warm, friendly, down to earth and had a great sense of humor. She made me feel comfortable when she informed me she had worked with a number of transgendered clients.

Carol told me: "Electrolysis is a repeated process that will eventually lead to permanent hair removal. It's not a one-time method, but a process that takes up to a year or more, weakening the root system. And at this time, it is the only method in practice that will permanently work."

Carol uses the blend method, a combination of AC and DC current to achieve dual action destruction of the hair follicle. Both currents travel through a probe, or needle. Carol uses

a gold, disposable, tapered style which she believes to be the most effective, and most comfortable. The current sears the hair with heat so it can be removed, while causing chemical destruction of the hair follicle. In time, depending on the coarseness of the hair and the repetition of Electrolysis, the root system finally dies.

I had heard horror stories about pain, and the after effects of Electrolysis. Tales of people with faces that were so swollen it appeared they had come in contact with killer bees. "Everyone is different when it comes to individual reactions, and their tolerance to pain," Carol told me, "Everybody's body is different." She went on to explain that it was impossible to destroy hair without sensation because each hair follicle is surrounded by nerve endings. Then a smile crossed her face. "Why don't we do a small test patch on you," she said.

We walked into her office where I cautiously climbed onto her table and lay back. Carol covered my eyes. She then chose a small section of my cheek to work on, first applying a topical ointment to numb the area. What I next felt was a very slight pain. A better description might be a mildly uncomfortable tugging sensation.

Carol worked very cautiously and methodically, watching and listening to my reactions. Then she advanced to the side of my chin. This area felt a bit more sensitive. "The nerves in your face overlap as they reach the center," Carol stated, "making that area much more sensitive."

When she had finished her test patch on me, I was handed a mirror and could see a small section of my face which was now hairless. Then she gave me an "after care" sheet that offered advice in case swelling oc-

curred. "Occasionally whiteheads or scabs appear. Don't pick them; this is part of the normal healing process," Carol said. We chatted for a short time and I told her I'd call her the following day to let her know how I was doing.

By the next morning I had definitely made up my mind. Electrolysis was something I wanted. Since that evening I have spent many hours with Carol. She has cleared my mustache three times (each time the whiskers returned a bit thinner) and has started work on my chin and below my lip. To say it was all painless would be a lie. Twice I've had my dentist numb me up with Novocain so Carol could work directly in the center of my upper lip and under my nose. Happily I've had no adverse skin reactions at all and only minor swelling that disappeared within 48 hours. And as I look in the mirror, I can visualize a day in the not too distant future where shaving won't be an necessary ritual at all.

I can't say enough good things about Carol Gendler. She's really a great person. And she's very convenient for those in, or visiting the Los Angeles area. Carol's office is located in the San Fernando Valley (see her ad elsewhere in this issue).

LL



Gina Lance (l) & Carol Gendler



▲ Phyllis Lane, PO Box 493, Rock Falls IL 61071



▲ Micheline Montreuil, 1050 Orleans, Charlesbourg, Quebec, Canada G1H 2H2



▲ Jessica Brooks, NY



▲ Stephanie, MD FWD 2696

Mirror

▼ Angela, Mich. FWD3348



▼ Heather Moe, PO Box 6705, Aloha, OR 97007



▲ Marlayna Lacie (l.) & JoAnn Roberts (r.)



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◀ Rachel, U.K.

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▼ Lori Larkin, Wyo.
LoriLarkin@aol.com



▼ Daphne Thomas, PO Box
5679, Dearborn MI 48128



On My Mind...



A Progress Report

So far, so good. Our excursion into self-distribution has not been without its rewards. *LadyLike* is making its way into more and more mainstream outlets every day. That's good for the tg-community at large. The more mainstream we are the better is the chance we'll be accepted out in the real world. (See Angela's perspective on page 2).

LadyLike is now in selected Tower Books and Barnes & Noble stores. If you don't see us in either of these chains or at your local outlet, please go in and ask for us. This will be the only way to get *LadyLike* into these local shops. Several readers have mentioned to me that they've done just this and were pleased to find the stores were very interested in accommodating their requests. Believe me, drag and crossdressing are still hot media topics and that means sales. I'm still working on getting into Borders, but it ain't easy. If you have an outlet that you'd like to see *LadyLike* in, write us with the name and address and we'll see what we can do.

You may have noticed that we added a few pages to this issue, four to be exact. That may not sound like much, but it was a major step for us. We've been inundated with advertisers wanting space and we just had to accommodate them. But I did not want to dilute the reading material, hence the extra pages. For now, there is no increase in either the cover price or subscription rates. But if we have to add more pages for future issues, we'll have to re-evaluate that decision. Meanwhile, you get a little more for your money.

Feedback, feedback, feedback. It's extremely important to us. Angela and I need to know what you think of the magazine and how it is progressing. We can get pretty blasé about some of the features and what we like isn't always what you like. But we'll never know if you don't tell us. Tell us what you like most about the magazine and what you like least. Would you like more *How-To* features, like makeup and hair? Or would you like more reading material like fiction stories and *Flash Back* series? Ideas for Photo Features would also be helpful and appreciated. Write us care of the magazine or send email <LLmag@cdspub.com>.

Much Ado About Photos

I want to thank all the girls who have sent in photos of themselves with their cars for the *Hot Babes & Hot Rods* spread coming up in issue #35 (October 98). There's still time to get a photo in, but you have to hurry! Oh, and the photo doesn't *have* to be a car—a truck or motorcycle will do just fine.

Otherwise, keep those regular photos coming in. The forwarding system (for subscribers only) and addresses printed with your photos has been a big hit. (See page 24 for instructions on Forwarding) Our photo bank is at an all time high, but we always need one more photo, yours. Yeah, you, the one who hasn't ever sent in a photo. You may notice that we don't print photos of just

the "pretty faces." We try to show the whole spectrum of cross-dressers, from the "June Cleaver" clone to the Madonna wannabe in black leather corset. It's not how good you look that will get your photo selected for publication. There are two basic requisites for getting your photo into *LadyLike*: (1) Your photo should be sharp, in focus, and well-lit; and (2) You should smile. Probably the most common reason for not printing a photo is that it is too dark. The second most common reason is out of focus. There's a third reason we won't print photos, overexposure. No, not in the camera. Some people send us 20, 30, even 40 photos over the course of a few months. Since we only print one or two of any person per issue, the rest will languish in the photo file until they get moldy. Don't waste film and our time. Send only your best.

Several people have asked recently if they can email photos to us. The answer is a strong and definite "No." There are several reasons; (1) The typical GIF and JPG formats used on the net do not contain enough information to allow us to print a good photo; (2) if you sent us a 24bit RGB TIFF file of a 4x6 photo at sufficient resolution for printing, it would be over 6Mb in size and probably cause our mail server to hang (our ISP gets upset at this); (3) even if you did get it to us, the typical home scanner isn't up to the quality level of our publishing model scanner. So, the bottom line is, send us your print photos by snail mail.

We don't return photos, so don't bother sending stamped envelopes with your photos. It would be a terrific administrative hassle to keep track of all the photos for an issue if some had to be returned. I'd much rather spend my time putting the next issue together than trying to figure out which photos need to be mailed. So, when you send us your photos, send duplicates or photos you don't need returned.

Be Careful Out There!

Reading Angela's Editorial made me nervous. I think it is a great sign for our society that she's been able to conduct her day-to-day life as Angela for days at a time with no serious repercussions. At the same time, I worry about the crossdresser from East Podunk who might be encouraged to try the same thing. Living on either of the Coasts (East or West) is a definite advantage. People here (East) and there (West) are exposed to more diversity than people in the middle of Iowa or Missouri. They tend to get inured to the odd and strange, especially if they're from New York City, San Francisco, or Los Angeles. But what about Biloxi, Mississippi? Are the good people there ready for Ms. Gardner to pop into the local auto parts store for a turn signal bulb? Maybe not. So, if you're thinking of copying Angela's success, please choose your day's schedule carefully. And, for Goddess sake, *before* you go out, get an independent assessment of your image as a woman.

The other danger is that you will have such a good time, you will think maybe you should do it all the time. Resist turning down that path without the help of a *qualified* therapist (and, no, having written a book isn't a qualification). I've seen far too many lives ruined by the false hope of living as a woman.

JoAnn Roberts

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